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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

-----076619 020242Z /73

R 281935Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2403

[REDACTED] 0827

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: ASUNCION 662

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Declassify~~: () In Part () In Full ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED ONE POLITICAL PRISONER FEBRUARY 21 AND ELEVEN MORE ON FEBRUARY 27. IN ADDITION, ONE POLITICAL PRISONER WAS ORDERED RELEASED BY A JUDGE ON FEBRUARY 24. ADDED TO THE FIVE PERSONS RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 15 (REFTEL), THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED IN FEBRUARY TO EIGHTEEN.

2. THE ELEVEN ARE: MILQUIADES ALONSO MASARE; FELICIANO ALVAREZ; ZACARIAS ALVAREZ; RENE AYALA GONZBWEZ; DANIEL CAMPOS RUIZ; MARIA ESTER CERDAN DE RODRIGUEZ; CORCINA CORONEL ZORRILLA; JUAN MARIANO RIVACK; JULIANA SALDIVAR CARDOZO; NICOLAS SPRIDONOFF BARRESI AND ROSALINTCEZCO. THERE IS NO APPARENT LOGIC IN THEIR RELEASE. ALL WERE DETAINED BETWEEN AUGUST 1974 AND MAY 1976. FIVE WERE DETAINED AS SUSPECTED COMNANIST PARTY (PCP) SUPPORTERS AND VIVE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPM ROUNDUP. THE REMAINING PERSON, RIVACK, A MOPOCO SUPPORTER, WAS DETAINED IN AUGUST 1974 WHILE CROSSING INTO PARAGUAY FROM ARGENTINA, ALLEGEDLY AS PART OF A GROUP PLANNING TO ROB AN ASUNCION FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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HOUSE RUN BY THE MENNONITES. TWO OF THE PRISONERS HAD GIVEN THEIR FIRST DECLARATIONS TO A JUDGE ALMOST A YEAR AGO BUT THE COURTS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR RELEASE.

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3. BONIFACIO ALFONSO RAMIREZ, THE PRISONER RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 21, HAD BEEN DETAINED IN NOVEMBER 1975 AS A PCP SUSPECT.

4. IN A SEPARATE ACTION, A JUDGE ORDERED JUAN MIGUEL SANCHEZ GARCIA, ANOTHER PCP SUSPECT, RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 24, FOLLOWING HIS FIRST DECLARATION, FOR LACK OF INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE. HE WAS DETAINED IN MARCH 1977 AS A PCP SUSPECT AND HELD SEVERAL MONTHS BY THE POLICE BEFORE BEING SENT TO EMBOSCADA PRISON IN DECEMBER 1977. BRIGGS

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